THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

Honorable John A. McCone
Director, Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D. C.

Dear John:

I appreciate receiving your prompt interim reply on the National
ELINT Plan (NEP). As we have previously discussed, action is
necessary to get better statements of USIB substantive intelli-
gence requirements for application to specific collection sources.
I certainly agree, therefore, that it will be most useful for the
SIGINT Committee to develop better statements of the intelligence
requirements for ELINT collection for national purposes.

I feel, however, that the function of preparing a monthly pro-
jection of peripheral reconnaissance flights is essentially one
of determining, on the basis of technical and operational con-
siderations, the tasks which should be assigned to the available
platforms in order to meet approved requirements. I consider that
the new procedures directed in the NEP for airborne ELINT collec-
tion activities should result in proposed monthly projections of
ELINT flights which are technically and operationally sound and
are directly relevant to requirements. There seems no need, there-
fore, for referring the monthly projections to USIB prior to action
by the 303 Committee, and I feel that such action would unduly com-
plicate the conduct of these important and highly sensitive opera-
tions.

Sincerely,

CY

OSD REVIEW COMPLETED

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Remarks:

Orig. sent to Mr. Bross.

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